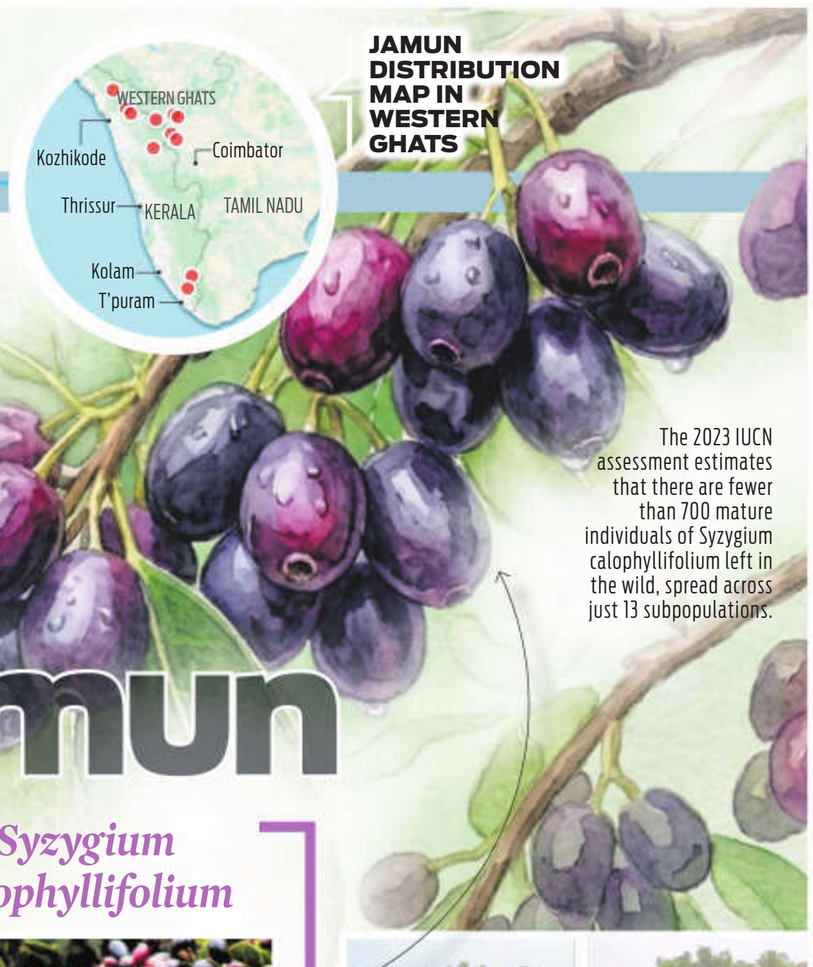
Did the Nilgiri wild jamun fail to flower because this was simply its natural resting year or are the trees beginning to lose synchrony with the climate and the pollinators that sustain them?

WHERE DID THE 'ENDANGERED' Nilgiri wild jamun DISAPPEAR?



The 2023 IUCN assessment estimates that there are fewer than 700 mature individuals of Syzygium calophyllifolium left in the wild, spread across just 13 subpopulations.

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Nilgiris

THE journey to one of Tamil Nadu's remotest forests begins where most roads end.

A four-wheel vehicle took us till Parsons Valley and from there, we went on a bike to the Western Catchment Area. The last stretch had to be covered on foot, trekking through steep slopes at elevations above 2,000 metre.

After hours of travel in bone-crushing cold, mist and strong winds, we finally reached the hill slopes where hundreds of Nilgiri wild jamun (Syzygium calophyllifolium) grow.

But there was something missing.

I could not find even one ripened Nilgiri wild jamun, although the fruiting season has almost come to a close. We searched hundreds of trees. Forget about fruiting, we did not see even the flowering. Stunted budding was noticed in just a few trees.

For a tree that the IUCN Red List has already classified as Endangered, the absence was difficult to ignore.

The 2023 IUCN assessment estimates that there are fewer than 700 mature individuals of Syzygium calophyllifolium left in the wild, spread across just 13 subpopulations in five montane landscapes. The population is declining. The Nilgiri and Agasthyamalai landscapes together account for 72% of the species' population, making the high-altitude forests of the Nilgiris particularly important for its survival.

The IUCN assessment says the species is chiefly found in montane evergreen forests, generally between 1,000 metre and 2,300 metre, and has an estimated area of occupancy of just 56 sq km. It records a continuing decline in mature individuals as well as in the area, extent and quality of its habitat. So this was not merely the absence of fruit. It was the silence of an ecological event that simply never happened or observed so far. Whether this is a cyclical phenomenon or whether something more serious is at play remains a question.

Is it linked to warmer years, El Nino years or poor monsoon? Incidentally, 2026 is one of the warmest years and a super El Nino is currently taking shape. The area also experienced unprecedented ground frost before the fruiting season. Could that have affected the trees? Could changing weather conditions have affected pollinators? And if the flowering and fruiting cycle is disrupted repeatedly, what happens to the animals that depend upon the tree? The IUCN itself lists February to May as the species' flowering and fruiting period. Phenology - the timing of flowering, fruiting and other recurring biological events - is increasingly recognised as a sensitive indicator of environmental change. Scientists say plant reproductive cycles are influenced by environmental cues and are often synchronised with pollinators and seed dispersers.

M G Ganesan, former director of Project Nilgiri Tahr and current deputy director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, says Mukurthi National Park is a prime habitat for Tamil Nadu's state animal Nilgiri Tahr.

"One of the two metapopulations of Nilgiri Tahr is in Western Catchment Area and this landscape that primarily consists of montane shola forests is very fragile. Nilgiri wild jamun is an indicator species of ecological health and found only in this ancient shola landscape. Every year, it is customary for me to visit there and relish eating the fruit, but this year I haven't seen a single tree with the fruits. This is not confined to western catchment alone, but observed in the entire Nilgiris landscape."

Climate clock falls out of sync

For anti-poaching watcher G Arun Kumar, who has worked in the Western Catchment Area for the last 10 years, the absence of flowering this year is striking. He said there was no flowering and felt that the poor monsoon, high winds and heavy misty conditions could have a direct correlation with the failure. "Climate change is affecting the forest," he said, pointing to the changing conditions being experienced in the high-altitude landscape. But scientists caution that one year's failure cannot automatically be attributed to climate change.



Nilgiri Tahr feeding on wild jamun trees in summer

Anita Varghese, director (biodiversity), Keystone Foundation, said many trees that produce fruits in abundance, such as amla and mango, have a resting period after mass flowering and fruiting. Nilgiris wild jamun could also show such a phenomenon.

"That could be the phenomenon," she said, while stressing that the trees need to be observed again next year. If the failure repeats, climate stress could become a stronger possibility, particularly because this year had poor rainfall. Anita said the relationship between climate and flowering can also involve a time lag. A drought or rainfall deficit in one year may affect flowering in the following year. "This year's drought will reflect on next year's flowering," she said. That makes the next flowering season particularly important. Anita also stressed the need for regular monitoring because phenological changes can be subtle but important indicators of climate change. She noted that changes of even a couple of weeks in the timing of flowering can have ecological consequences.

Renee Maria Borges, evolutionary biologist and professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, says it would be because of climate change. "We are seeing such disruptions across the world, but without long-term studies it would be difficult to draw conclusions." According to field personnel who have worked in Mukurthi for several years, fruiting has generally been observed every year. Some staff with nearly a decade of experience in the landscape also reported that they had never seen such a widespread absence of flowering and fruiting. Across hundreds of trees examined, only a handful showed immature fruit, while flowering was virtually absent.



One of the two metapopulations of Nilgiri Tahr is in Western Catchment Area and this landscape that primarily consists of montane shola forests is very fragile. Nilgiri wild jamun is an indicator species of ecological health and found only in this ancient shola landscape — M G GANESAN

Syzygium calophyllifolium



A tree already in trouble

Extinct — Threatened — Least Concern

EX | EW | CR | **EN** | VU | NT | LC

Estimated mature individuals: Fewer than 700

Population trend: Declining

Where it grows: Montane shola evergreen forests of South India and Sri Lanka, chiefly at 1,000–2,300 m elevation. The Nilgiri and Agasthyamalai landscapes together hold 72% of the population.

Flowering & fruiting: February–May, according to the IUCN assessment.

MAJOR THREATS

- Fragmentation and degradation of montane shola forests
- Tea, eucalyptus and wattle plantations
- Infrastructure development
- Invasive Lantana camara and Acacia mearnsii

THE BIGGEST GAP

- No systematic monitoring scheme exists.
- The IUCN assessment specifically lists research needs including population size, distribution, trends, life history and ecology.



(L-R) K Manigandan and B Subbaiyan

Warning hidden in the missing fruit

The disappearance of the fruit becomes more significant when seen against the species' already precarious conservation status.

Dr B Subbaiyan, senior research fellow with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department's Project Nilgiri Tahr and a plant taxonomist, says the species occupies the higher sholas and plays an important ecological role. A failure in flowering, therefore, means much more than the loss of one season's crop. It potentially affects every species that depends upon it.

(S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA is a resident fellow of the Climate Change Media Hub at the Asian College of Journalism. The programme is supported by Interlink Academy Germany)

/thenewindianexpress
@newindianexpress
+ The New Indian Express

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.044-28415003, 28511972
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

1	Description	Sale of Indian Standard Sand Grade II & Grade III (as is where is condition) available at Ennore Factory
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID	**438/VAP-1/2026, Dated.21.08.2026** **2026_TNMIN_696743_1**
3	Bid submission end date	**21.09.2026 upto 1600 hrs.**
4	Technical bid opening date	**22.09.2026 at 1600 hrs.**
5	Tender form Fee EMD amount	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) (Non refundable) Rs.6,62,569/- (Rupees Six lakh sixty two thousand five hundred and sixty nine only)

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal
http://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/2646/TENDER/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)**

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in,
cebuildings@rediffmail.com, Tel. -(0674)- 2391523
File No-B-IV-H-(ALMC)-22/2023(Pt-V) Lr. No.-30630 Bhubaneswar, the 20th August, 2026
34001/682/2627 Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No.: CE-Bldg-I-31/2026-27

1.	The E.I.C. (Civil), (I/c) Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, **(1) "Construction of Govt. College of Nursing (G+1) and Hostel Building (G+3) at Baripada, Dist.-Mayurbhanj", (2) "Construction of Govt. College of Nursing at Baleswar", (3) "Construction of Govt. College of Nursing at Jajpur", (4) "Construction of Block Level Stadium (With Indoor Hall) in Kuarmunda Block under Sundargada District" & (5) "Construction of Block Level Stadium (With Indoor Hall) in Gurundia Block under Sundargada District"** as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Work
3.	No. of work	:	05 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost.	:	₹10,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'A'/ Special
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.01.09.2026 to 17.00 Hours of dt.17.09.2026.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt.18.09.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (Civil),
OIPR- 34001/34117/1/26-27/0064 (I/c) Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha

CIN: L65910KL1992PLC006623.
MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD. Registered Office : W - 4/ 638A, Manappuram House, P.O. Valapad, Thrissur - 680 567, Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/09/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any)will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

SRIKAKULAM, AMUDALAVALASA, 0121190720000273, 5113, DAY AND NIGHT JUNCTION, 0109220710063879, 3892, 4005, GUJARATHIPETA, 0133720710051779, 1923, 1938, ICHAPURAM, 0120300710048084, PALASA, 0124890710040785, 0615, RAJAM, 0119680710054024, 4050, 4066, 4079, SOMPETA,A.P, 0121800710023272, 3286, 3373, SRIKAKULAM OLD BUS STAND, 0109390710057524, THEKKALI, 0119870710030637, VISHAKAPATNAM, AGANAMPUDI, 0121080710071977, 1988, 1992, 2032, 2043, 0234, AKKIREDDYPALEM,VISHAKAPATNAM, 0124340710060925, ANAKAPALLE, 0104400710764265, BHEEMUNIPATNAM, 0118290710066991, CHODAVARAM, 0118950710026164, GAJUWAKA, 0126030710098584, 8682, GOPALAPATNAM, 0109870710065208, 5229, 5418, 0339, ISUKATHOTA, 0109460710077526, 7537, 7637, KANITHI ROAD,VADLAPUDI, 0124870710065657, MADHURAVADA, 0116810710071451, 1741, 1815, MARIPALEM VISHAKAPATNAM, 0124330820000182, MURALINAGAR, 0110810710073234, NARASIPATNAM, 0116720710048358, 8500, POORNAMARKET, 0104850710065438, POTHINAMALLAYAPALEM, 0123610710078559, 0323, RAMNAGAR VISAKHAPATNAM, 0117000810052280, SIMHACHALAM,VISAKAPATNAM, 0133700710047493, 7509, 7532, 0413, 7337, TADJETTIPALEM, 0125320820000257, VIZIANAGARAM, BOBBILI, 0116010820000366, CHEEPRUPALLI, 0137010720000242, JAMI, 0123110710049047, 9051, KOTA CENTRE, 0103160810102834, M.G ROAD,VIJAYANAGARAM, 0119480710082013, 2063, MAYURI JUNCTION, 0109800710103168, 3174, NELLIMARLA, 0119560710061442, 1467, RAMABADHRAPURAM, 0120620710065693, SEETHANAGARAM, 0122570710045173,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bammanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Ramgopal Textiles And Girls Ware/ Shankara Rao Dibba & Lakshmi Dibba / Represented By Proprietor Shankara Rao Dibba 27/122, Vizianagaram Bobbili, Main Road, Bobbili Near Bobbili Fort, Bobbili, Andhra Pradesh-535558/ 395605002206	Property Address: All That The 120 sq.yds of Site In TS No.242.24, Block No 34, Ward No.12 Southside of Main Big Bazar, Bobbili Village & Municipality, Vizianagaram Dt., Andhra Pradesh-535558. Bounded by: East: RCC Slab Constructions of K Vykuntharao, South: Vacant Site of S Ramarao, West: Municipal Road to Kanimerakala, North: Big Bazaar Roadside Canal Measurements: East-West South Dande:13'.3" FT (4.042 Mtrs) North Dande:16'.9" FT (5.105 Mtrs) North-South:72 FT (21.960 Mtrs)/ Date of Symbolic Possesion 17th August, 2026	27th May, 2026 Rs. 46,29,712.55/-	Vizianagaram

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: August 22, 2026
Place: Vizianagaram
Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Aptus Finance India Private Limited
8B, Doshi Towers, 205, Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.Telephone: 044-4565 0003

POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV (UNDER RULE8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Aptus Finance India Private Limited** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the SecurityInterest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon theborrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice beingwithin60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and thepublic in general that the undersigned has taken **"Symbolic Possession"** of the property describedherein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No.	Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of the Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice Date	Possession Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	Date and Type of Possession Taken
1.	TPEN-DU00038353	1.Mr. Ganesh Rayapureddi, 2.Mr. Devi Rayapureddi	All that a site measuring an extent of 196 Sq.Yards (or) 157.780 Sq.Mts.,, together with Under Construction RCC residential GROUND FLOOR (830 Sft.), Bearing Old Door No:14-21, New Door No:11-194,, Electricity Bill Service No. 115660M005004552, Property tax Assessment No. 1415, Landmark: Near Amar School, Covered by Survey No. 241/1, KOBBARITHOTA STREET, MADUGULA VILLAGE, AND PANCHAYATH, MADUGULA MANDAL, Sub-Registrar â€" MADUGULA, ANAKAPALLI District, that the property presently **bounded by:** North By : House of Sirapalli Murali, South By : C.C Road, East By : House of Maturi Kondaji and Vacant Land of Others, West By : Compound Wall of Rangapatla Moda Venkata Satyanarayana Murty.	25-03-2026	**Rs. 1374475/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Five Only)as on 29.05.2026	17.08.2026 Symbolic Possession
2.	TGA-JUW0036677	Tulasi Chelluri & Kasi Ramana Chelluri	All that a site measuring an extent of 142.08 Sq.Yards (or) 118.79 Sq.Mts.,, together with Under Construction RCC residential GROUND FLOOR (670 Sft.), Bearing D.NO: 1-9,, Electricity Bill Service No. 113458N009000712, Property tax Assessment No.9, Landmark: Near Hanuman Temple, Covered by Survey No. 243, VADA NARSAPURAM VILLAGE AND PANCHAYATH, RAMBILLI MANDAL, Sub-Registrar â€" YELAMANCHILI, ANAKAPALLI District, that the property presently **bounded by:** North By : C.C Road, South By : Property of Others, East By : House of Chelluri Satyam Raju, West By : House of Chelluri Mahesh S/o.Narasayya.	24-01-2026	**Rs. 1334216/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixteen Only) as on 31-03-2026	17.08.2026 Symbolic Possession

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Aptus Finance India Private Limited** The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Aptus Finance India Private Limited

CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The New Indian Express Group of Publications does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The New Indian Express Group of Publications shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

AXIS FINANCE LIMITED

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Notice of 15 days for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower and/ Co- Borrower"s or their legal heirs/representatives (Borrowers) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to **Axis Finance Ltd. (AFL)**, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AFL, will be sold on **08-09-2026** on **"As is where is" & "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** and without any recourse basis" for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrower and Co-Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below. Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/ discontinuance of the sale, the said secured asset / property shall be sold by **E- Auction 11:00 AM** onwards on the said **08-09-2026**. The sealed envelope containing Demand Draft of EMD for participating in E- Auction shall be submitted to the Authorised Officer of the **AFL** on or before **07-09-2026** till 4:00 PM at Branch address Axis Finance Limited,Ground Floor, Block-C,Sanali Info Park,Road No-2,Banjarahills,Hyderabad, Telangana-500034
The sale of the Secured Asset/ Immovable Property will be on "as is where condition is" as per brief particulars described herein below;

Sr. No.	Loan A/c. No	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-borrower(s) Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative/ Guarantor(s)	Date of Demand Notice and amount mentioned in demand notice	Type of possession	Reserve Price	Outstanding as on
1	0456MLA00000470	1.Mr. Pakkala Chaitanya (Borrower Cum Mortgagor) 2.Mrs. Pakkala Malleswari (Co-Borrower)	27/09/2025 & NR 22,53,501/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Five hundred and one Only)	Symbolic	Rs.33,46,110/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Forty Six Thousand One Hundred Ten only)	Rs.22,33,416 /- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Only) due as on 18/08/2026

Description of Immovable Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of Residential site bearing Door no 5-29-38, Sy no 50/7, admeasuring 153 sq yds or 127.927 sq mtrs together with ACC house of plinth area 1377 sq ft, Assessment no 1088075235, Water tax Assessment no 109959624 situated in Chinantyada Area, Thokada Village, within the limits of Greater Vishakapatnam Municipal Corporation, in the sub-registration district of Pedagantyada, Andhra Pradesh 530026 and **bounded by:** East- Pakkala Sarojini house Prahari Wall, West- others RCC House, North- Vacant site of Bellamkonda Narsimharaju, South-Rasta. **Measurements**:East Wing - 54 feet or 16.45 mtrs, South Wing - 27 feet or 8.22 mtrs.

Note: The bidders are advised to conduct due diligence before submitting the bid. The auction shall be subject to the outcome of the litigation, Dispute if any.
At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the Immovable Property sold.The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and the terms and conditions prescribed:
The E-auction of the properties will take place through portal **https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net//EPROC/ on 08.09.2026, 11:00 a.m.** onwards. For further details please refer to the notice published in the newspapers and at websites: **https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/ and www.axisfinance.com**

Contact Person Details & Mob. Nos.:
Mr. Srinivas R Mob: 8106160151, Mr. Ayan Bhattacharya :Mob: 9811710558

Place: Mumbai **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 21/08/2026 **Axis Finance Ltd.**

Registered Address: At C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.
CIN No. U65921MH1995PLC212675.
Branch Address: Axis Finance Limited,Ground Floor, Block-C,Sanali Info Park,Road No-2,Banjarahills,Hyderabad, Telangana-500034.